

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 ACDA-05 EUR-12 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /086 W

----- 110196

R 150955Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4064

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR JA KS KN

SUBJ: DSP CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE

REFS: (A) TOKYO 12899 (B) TOKYO 12132

SUMMARY. CHARGE AND EMBOFFS MET OCTOBER 6 WITH DSP VICE
CHAIRMAN RYOSUKU SASAKI, DSP INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUREAU
DIRECTOR KATSU KAWAMURA AND DSP SECURITY EXPERT (AND RECENT
WASHINGTON VISITOR) EIICHI NAGASUE. CONVERSATION COVERED DSP
MISSION'S RECENT US VISIT, DSP INTEREST IN JAPANESE SECURITY AND
KOREAN SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

1. DSP VISIT TO US. SASAKI EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE OVER
MEETING WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER (REF B). HE EXPRESSED SOME
CONCERN THAT HE AND FELLOW PARTY MEMBERS MAY HAVE OVERTAYED
THEIR WELCOME, BUT CHARGE ASSURED THEM THAT SECRETARY
SCHLESINGER HAD FOUND DSP DISCUSSION INFORMATIVE. SASAKI
SAID THEY HAD PROMISED NOT TO REVEAL CONTENTS OF SCHLESINGER
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CONVERSATION AT THAT TIME AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL DSP MISSION

RETURNED FROM US ON SEPTEMBER 10 THAT CERTAIN OF THEMES DISCUSSED HAD BEEN MENTIONED TO JAPANESE MEDIA.

2. NAGASUE SAID THAT DURING COURSE OF DSP MISSION'S US VISIT, THEY WERE SURPRISED BY UNITY OF US OPINION ON KOREAN ISSUE. SEN. MANSFIELD, FOR EXAMPLE, SPOKE OF US TROOPS REMAINING IN KOREA "FOR TIME BEING," WHICH HE DEFINED AS FIVE TO TEN YEARS. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ZURHELLEN SPOKE OF THEIR REMAINING "INDEFINITELY," DEFINING "INDEFINITELY" AS FIVE TO TEN YEARS. NAGASUE SAID THEY RAN INTO SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT NUANCES OF THINKING, BUT SAME GENERAL INTENT WHEREVER THEY WENT. HE ADDED THAT, IN GENERAL, DSP WAS VERY PLEASED WITH ITS RECEPTION IN WASHINGTON. HE ASKED THAT THIS APPRECIATION BE PASSED ALONG TO DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND OTHERS RESPONSIBLE.

3. JAPANESE SECURITY. SASAKI NOTED THAT FOR SOME TIME DSP HAD BEEN URING ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIET COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AFFAIRS. IT WOULD PROVIDE A NECESSARY FORUM FOR DEBATE ON DEFENSE MATTERS. BUT LDP, ALTHOUGH GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO DSP URGINGS, WAS STILL RELUCTANT TO PROPOSE FORMALLY COMMITTEE'S ESTABLISHMENT. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S COMMENT THAT HE THOUGHT HE DETECTED A MORE REALISTIC JAPANESE VIEW OF SECURITY AFFAIRS OVER PAST FEW MONTHS, SASAKI RECALLED APPEARANCE OF DEFENSE RELATED ARTICLES IN MAJOR JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS OVER PAST FEW WEEKS AND MONTHS. THIS HE CONCEDED WAS UNPRECEDENTED IN POST-WAR HISTORY, BUT HE FELT JAPANESE WERE STILL CONSIDERING ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF MORE EXTENSIVE DEFENSE DEBATE.

4. ON PRIOR CONSULTATIONS, SASAKI NOTED US AND JAPANESE APPROACH THEM FROM DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS. US TENDS TO EMPHASIZE SIMILARITY OF US AND JAPANESE GOALS, DISCOUNTING NEED FOR EXTENSIVE SECURITY CONSULTATION OR DISCUSSION. FROM A JAPANESE PERSPECTIVE, HOWEVER, SASAKI SAID THIS SEEMS LIKE US SPRINGING ITS ALREADY DETERMINED STRATEGIC DECISIONS ON JAPAN AT THE LAST MINUTE. WHAT IS NEEDED, HE SAID, IS GREATER MUTUAL CONSIDERATION OF CONTINGENCIES THAT COULD ARISE AND AGREEMENT ON HOW BOTH GOVERNMENTS WOULD REACT.

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5. KOREA. ASKED ABOUT KOREAN ISSUE IN UNGA, THE CHARGE REPLIED IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO US. AN UNFAVORABLE VOTE ON KOREA ISSUE IN EITHER FIRST COMMITTEE OR UNGA PLENARY WOULD HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON US OPINION CONCERNING UN, AS WELL AS ON JAPAN AND ROK. SASAKI SAID DSP STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL TO HAVE FOUR-POWER DISCUSSION OF A KOREA SOLUTION. HE NOTED THAT DSP HAD PROPOSED THIS IDEA SOME TIME AGO, BUT THEIR PROPOSAL HAD ATTRACTED LITTLE MEDIA ATTENTION.

SASAKI ADDED THAT, SINCE ORIGINAL CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED BY MILITARY COMMANDERS, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE GOOD IDEA TO HAVE MILITARY COMMANDERS DISCUSS NEW CEASE-FIRE ARRANGEMENTS. CHARGE REPLIED THAT SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL WAS OPEN ENDED AND WOULD PERMIT THIS APPROACH AS WELL AS OTHERS. CHARGE NOTED GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT NORTH KOREA WAS PRESENTLY UNINTERESTED IN SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL AND THEREFORE PRC AND USSR WERE ALSO UNRESPONSIVE.

6. REPLYING TO SASAKI'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER USSR OR PRC HAS GREATER INFLUENCE ON NORTH KOREA, CHARGE SAID HE THOUGHT INFLUENCE WAS ABOUT 50-50, WITH BOTH SIDES RESTRAINING POSSIBLE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY ACTION. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER SASAKI QUESTION, CHARGE SAID UNFAVORABLE US MEDIA COVERAGE OF CURRENT SOUTH KOREAN INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION HAD GREATER NEGATIVE EFFECT ON US POLITICIANS AND ACADEMICS THAN ON US POPULAR OPINION GENERALLY. CHARGE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT RECENT VISITS OF US CONGRESSMENT HAD BROUGHT HOME TO PARK US SENTIMENT. SASAKI NOTED THAT JAPANESE MEDIA COVERAGE OF SOUTH KOREA'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS WAS CAUSING ANTIPATHY IN JAPAN AND THAT MEDIA COVERAGE HERE GENERALLY FAVORED NORTH KOREA.

7. SESSION ENDED WITH EXPRESSIONS OF MUTUAL DESIRE TO RENEW CONVERSATION AT EARLY OPPORTUNITY.

SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO14646
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750357-0379
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751053/aaaabvpz.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TOKYO 12899, 75 TOKYO 12132
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DSP CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA, KS, KN, DSP, (SASAKI, RYOSUKU), (NAGASUE, EIICHI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006